

Application No. 10/633,129
Amendment dated December 29, 2006
Response to Office Action of August 31, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 02-11074

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached Appendix I includes changes to Figs. 1, 4, 5, and 8. Appendix I, which four (4) Replacement Sheets 1, 4, 5, and 8, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1, 4, 5, and 8.

Attachment: Appendix I (Replacement Sheets)

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REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action mailed August 31, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 13, 14, and 18, and objected to claims 5-12 and 15-17, the specification, and the drawings.

Election/Restrictions:

Claims 19-25 were previously canceled without prejudice on June 19, 2006 as non-elected claims.

Drawings:

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings did not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Examiner requested “sensor” be shown or canceled from the claims. Applicant hereby deletes “comprising an ultrasound transducer and sensor” from the claims. Therefore, amendments to the claims do not constitute new matter nor narrowing amendments.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 32a, 32b, 36a, 36b, 48a, 48b, 54a, 54b, 76, 78, 80a, 80b, 90a, 90b.

The written description is hereby amended such that 32a and 32b are replaced with 32, 36a and 36b are replaced with 36, and 80a and 80b are replaced with 80 as shown above in the Amendment to the Specification.

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In Figure 4, Applicant hereby replaces reference numeral 48 with reference numerals 48a or 48b. In addition, reference numeral 54 is hereby replaced with reference numerals 54a or 54b. Also, reference numeral 50 is hereby replaced with 50b.

In Figure 5, Applicant hereby replaces reference numeral 48 with reference numeral 48b. In addition, reference numeral 44 is hereby replaced with 44b.

In Figure 8, Applicant hereby replaces reference numeral 48 with reference numerals 48a or 48b. Also, reference numeral 54 is hereby replaced with reference numeral 54b and reference numeral 50 is hereby replaced with reference numerals 90a and 90b. In addition, reference numerals 44b, 50b, and 56b are hereby replaced with reference numerals 44a, 50a, and 56a, respectively and reference numerals 44a and 50a are hereby replaced with reference numerals 44b and 50b so as to keep the consistency with the reference numerals.

Reference numerals 76 and 78 were objected to as being mentioned in the description but not shown in a drawing, however, original Figure 8 shows reference numerals 76 and 78 in the circular inset indicating the top and bottom section of the hook element 2.

However, on page 11, line 13 reference numerals 76 and 78 are also used to indicate a power switch and a control interface panel, respectively. As the same reference numerals cannot be used to indicate different parts, in Figure 1, Applicant

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hereby assigns reference numeral 11 to indicate the power switch and reference numeral 13 to indicate the control interface panel.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they included the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 32, 50. Applicant hereby replaces reference numerals 32a and 32b with 32 as shown in the Amendment to the Specification above. Therefore, reference numeral 32 is not mentioned in the written description.

The aforementioned amendments are merely reassessments of reference numerals for existing parts of the current invention. Therefore, support for these amendments can be found in original Figures 1, 4, 5, and 8. As such, the amendments to the drawings and the specification do not constitute new matter.

Specification:

The disclosure was objected to because of the following informalities: Page 8, line 8 recites “The slots 46 on the first end disk 44a...,” however, page 10 recites “shaft 46;” page 9, line 3 recites “hook element 2,” however, page 11, line 18 and page 12 recite “the slats 2,” thus using the same reference number for different parts.

Applicant hereby replaces “slots 46” with “slots 48a” as shown in the Amendment to the Specification above. Support for this amendment can be found on page 8, lines 12, 21-22.

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Applicant hereby replaces "slats 2" with "slats 6" as shown in the Amendment to the Specification above. Support for this amendment can be found on page 8, lines 11, 15, and 19; and on page 9, lines 13 and 20.

In addition, a typographical error on page 9, second paragraph beginning on line 15 has been corrected, such that "en d90b" is now "end 90b."

Therefore, amendments to the specification do not constitute new matter.

Claim Objections

Claims 5-12 and 15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form for including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5 is hereby rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claim 4) and is, therefore, allowable. Claims 6-12 now depend from allowable base claim 5 or intervening claims and are, therefore, allowable.

Claims 15 and 16 are hereby rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (14) and any intervening claim and is, therefore, allowable. Claim 17 now depends from an allowable claim and is, therefore, allowable.

Therefore, amendments to the claims do not constitute new matter nor narrowing amendments.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, and 18 have been rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by JP57027404 and claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP57027404.

Applicant hereby cancels claims 1, 4, and 14 without prejudice.

Claim 2 is hereby amended to depend from currently amended claim 5 and is, therefore, allowable. Support for this amendment can be found in original claim 2 and on page 7 lines 20-22.

Claim 3 is hereby amended to depend from currently amended claim 5 and is, therefore, allowable. Support for this amendment can be found in original claim 3 and on page 7 lines 3-9.

Claim 13 is hereby amended to depend from currently amended claim 5 and is, therefore, allowable. Support for this amendment can be found in original claim 13 and on page 2, lines 3-5 and page 12, lines 8-9.

Claim 18 is hereby amended to depend from currently amended claim 15 and is, therefore, allowable. Support for this amendment can be found in original claim 18 and on page 10, lines 5-7.

Therefore, amendments to the claims do not constitute new matter nor narrowing amendments.

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Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the foregoing is fully responsive to the Examiner's Office Action. If, however, the Examiner takes the position that a further correction is still necessary, Applicant requests the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below to make any necessary corrections.

Having responded to the Examiner's concerns, Applicant asserts that the application is now in condition for allowance and solicits that action. If a telephone interview will advance the allowance of the application, enable an Examiner's amendment, or promote other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicant requests the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

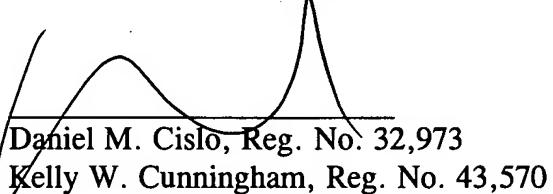
The Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to extend the time for reply to the Office Action dated August 31, 2006 for one month from November 30, 2006 to December 30, 2006. The Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 03-2030 to cover the cost of the extension.

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It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 29, 2006

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**Replacement Drawing Sheet(s) – Sheets 1, 4, 5 , and 8 / 8
(containing Figures 1, 4, 5, and 8)**

APPENDIX I



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that these documents, RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 31, 2006 and REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION, are being filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 29, 2006 as follows.

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

BY FIRST CLASS MAIL: This paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail to the foregoing addressee.

BY FACSIMILE: This document has been submitted via facsimile to the foregoing telefax number at the request of the Patent Examiner.



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